

ENTERED

August 19, 2016

David J. Bradley, Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
GALVESTON DIVISION

JAMES K. CHAMBERS,

Plaintiff,

v.

UTMB MANAGEMENT TEAM, *et al.*,

Defendants.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:14-CV-151

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Plaintiff James Chambers has filed a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging deliberate indifference to serious medical needs (Dkt. 1). Because Chambers's original allegations were extremely difficult to understand, the Court granted Chambers's request for leave to amend his complaint (Dkt. 41) and then granted Chambers's request for an extension of time to file his amended complaint (Dkt. 48). Chambers never filed an amended complaint. When the Court mailed an order for a more definite statement (Dkt. 59) to Chambers's last known address at the Tarrant County Jail, the order was returned marked, "Return to Sender. Not in Tarrant County Jail" (Dkt. 60). Chambers has not contacted the Court in nearly nine months; and he is not listed on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice website, whether one searches by name or by inmate number.

Parties, including those proceeding *pro se*, bear the burden of advising the Court of address changes. *See* Southern District of Texas Local Rule 83.4. As the Fifth Circuit has succinctly phrased it:

It is neither feasible nor legally required that the clerks of the district courts undertake independently to maintain current addresses on all parties to pending actions. It is incumbent upon litigants to inform the clerk of address changes, for it is manifest that communications between the clerk and the parties or their counsel will be conducted principally by mail.

Perkins v. King, No. 84-3310, at p. 4 (5th Cir. May 19, 1985) (slip op.).

The failure to inform the Court of an address change can result in the dismissal of an action for want of prosecution. *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1441 (9th Cir. 1988). Chambers's failure to give the Court his new address for a period of nearly nine months leads the Court to conclude that Chambers either is not exercising due diligence to prosecute this case or no longer wishes to pursue it. Moreover, any sanction short of dismissal would be futile at this point because there is no way to correspond with Chambers to tell him about it.

Id.


The Court may dismiss this action for want of prosecution under the inherent powers necessarily vested in a district court to manage its own affairs—FED. R. CIV. P. 41(b); *McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835 F.2d 1126, 1127 (5th Cir. 1988)—and it will now do so.

This case is **DISMISSED** without prejudice for want of prosecution. This is a **FINAL JUDGMENT**.

It is so **ORDERED**.

The Clerk will provide a copy of this order to the parties.

SIGNED at Galveston, Texas, on August 19, 2016.



GEORGE C. HANKS, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE